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Home of Judge J. C. Johnson, West Memphis, Ark., built in 1937.
George Mahan, Jr., and Everett Woods, Architects—E. C. Denaux, Inc., Interiors, Memphis, Tenn.

SOUTHERN OAK

FOR

PANELING AND INTERIOR TRIM

SOUTHERN HARDWOOD INFORMATION SERIES

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SOUTHERN HARDWOOD PRODUCERS, INC.

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SOUTHERN oak tells its own story in pictures. Words are scarcely necessary. The attractive figure of Southern white oak and its excellent qualities for paneling, carving and millwork, are shown in the accompanying illustrations. This beautiful home was completed in the latter months of 1937. Its oak finished rooms are good examples of modern, yet traditional, interiors.

The antique effect on the oak was obtained by scraping and coarse sanding, together with the use of a simple finish. Methods for obtaining this antique effect are described in the following paragraphs.

ANTIQUING SOUTHERN OAK:

Before installation the wood was first gone over with a box scraper and a hand scraper to give it a roughened, worn appearance, then rubbed with coarse sandpaper to further dig out the softer portions of the ring porous Southern white oak. A final light rubbing with fine sandpaper rounded off sharp edges and made it ready for the antique finish. In sanding the paper was used without a block, thus allowing the fingers to guide the paper through the depressions made by the tools.

OLD ENGLISH ANTIQUE FINISH:

A coat of straight ammonia was first applied to give the wood a semblance of age and bring the color to a grayish-brown, as well as raise the grain. When dry it was sanded until perfectly smooth, then stained to the desired color. A thin coat of white shellac to bind in the stain was next applied and when dry it was rubbed down with fine steel wool. Then a coat of liquid wax and rotten stone mixed to about a paste consistency was applied. This was allowed to dry and was then rubbed down again with steel wool. The rotten stone was mixed with the wax because it thus stays in the crevices and gives an additional gray tone.

The finish obtained by this method will stand indefinitely as it needs no further attention except the rubbing that it will get when the woodwork is being dusted.

The dining room furniture was finished in the same manner as the woodwork except that it was stained a bit darker to give a little contrast.

HALL AND STAIRWAY

The woodwork in this traditional, yet modern, hall and stairway is made of Southern white oak. The beams under the balcony reveal the attractiveness of antiqued character marked wood. A random width oak plank ceiling and a plank floor set off the stairway with its carved posts and banister.

DINING ROOM

The beauty of this paneling or wainscoting is enhanced by the broad medullary ray in the quartered wood and the bold figure of the plain sawed wood. In British usage, "Wainscot is a fine grade of oak imported for woodwork." Much Southern oak is sent to Great Britain where it is made into beautiful paneling. The oak furniture was finished slightly darker than the paneling to provide contrast.

The styles of our ancestors are modernized in this room where paneling and furniture blend to make a beautiful environment.

STUDY

Carvings over the doors, a scalloped frieze and built-in book shelves, give this study, paneled in plain and quartered Southern white oak, the right touch. The quartered flakes in the oak plank floor match those in the panels. The carved oak desk in the foreground is traditionally correct. Modern hardware and lighting fixtures date the room as of today rather than the 15th century.

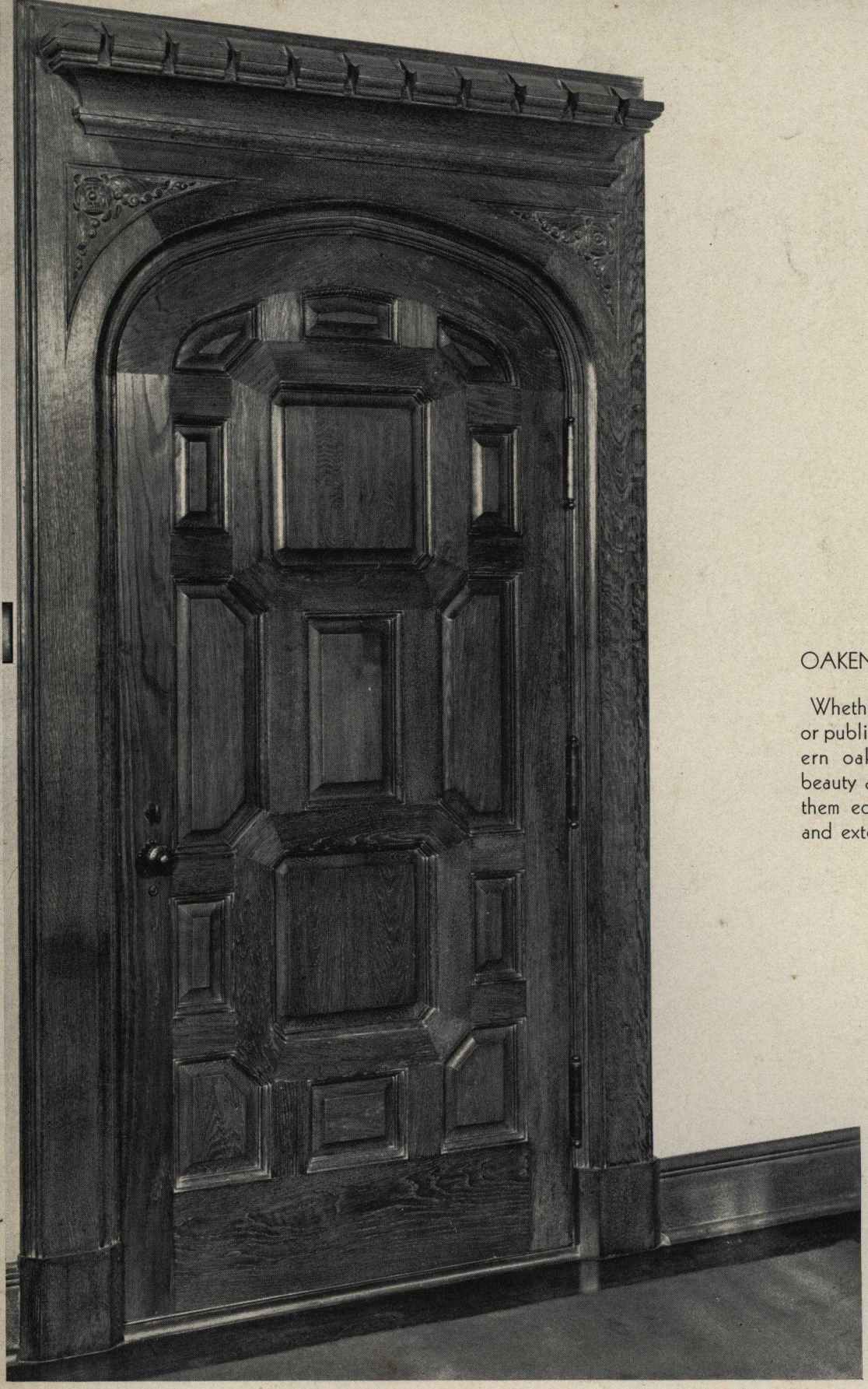
DETAILS OF CARVING AND MILLWORK

When Nature's handicraft is combined with man's artistry and skill, the result is enhanced beauty. The figure displayed by the plain and quartered Southern white oak shown in this close-up picture of door, carving and decorative millwork illustrates the fitness of this wood for beautiful interiors.

A PANEL OF SOUTHERN WHITE OAK

The broad medullary stripes of quartered Southern white oak, the pin stripe of partially quartered wood and the distinctive figure of plain sawed oak are all revealed in this "candid camera" shot.

Severely designed paneling requires character in the wood. Southern white oak possesses this character.



OAKEN DOOR

Whether for home, church, library or public building, doors of Southern oak possess the character, beauty and sturdiness which make them equally suitable for interior and exterior use.

Information on Oak and other Southern Hardwoods is obtainable by writing to

SOUTHERN HARDWOOD PRODUCERS, INC.

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